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May 10, 2018

Ontario Real Estate Association  
99 Duncan Mill Rd.  
Don Mills, Ontario M3B 1Z2

The Ontario NDP supports the dream of home ownership and knows that it has become increasingly elusive, particularly for young Ontarians and first-time home buyers, under the Wynne Liberals.

Affordable home ownership is a top priority in our platform, which includes several measures to ensure a healthy market for home buyers. We are committed to increasing the supply of and access to home ownership. An Ontario NDP government will encourage an array of options for housing. That includes affordable, neighbourhood-oriented homes including mid-rises, townhouses and stacked townhouses that sell for dramatically less than the cost of a detached home.

Working with municipalities, we'll use such measures as requiring a minimum density in developments along new transit lines, letting municipalities opt out of some minimum parking requirements, and requiring coordinated planning of retail and housing in medium-density developments.

We are aware of the unfair inconsistency in the law when it comes to real estate professionals in comparison to similar professionals that are allowed to establish personal corporations. We cannot see any reason to treat professional realtors differently than lawyers, accountants, architects and other similar professions.

The NDP believes that prospective Ontario home buyers should have access to energy efficiency information. However, we recognize the risks of unintended consequences, particularly when energy auditors are not properly regulated or access to auditors is uncertain, especially in remote and northern communities. We also know that this lack of regulation has an undesirable affect on reducing Ontario's carbon footprint. An NDP government will work with the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) and other stakeholders to ensure fairness for both home buyers and sellers.

The Ontario NDP believes that every Ontarian has a right to safe and affordable housing. We will continue to work in partnership with OREA to ensure that affordable home ownership is within reach for Ontario families.

Best,  
Ontario's New Democrats